

recommended for attacking such fistulae as need operative relief. The possibility of dissecting out certain fistulae and securing primary union of the wound left is not suggested. It is plainly and well stated that by proper attention to drainage and the use of stimulating antiseptic applications many cases of anal fistulae may be brought to a spontaneous healing without recourse to any cutting operation. For fistulae of the anus a simple incision a little longer than the fissure itself, along the deepest part of the fissure through one-third or one-half of the thickness of the sphincter is recommended as being quite sufficient to secure a radical cure.

Prolapse of the rectum, Polypus, Stricture are next in turn considered. A short chapter is also given to Malignant Tumors of the Rectum and anus. Then Malformations of the Rectum, Pruritus Ani, and Mechanical Injuries are in turn treated of. A collection of about 50 formulæ or medicaments for local use closes the volume.

The work is well written and is clear and forcible in its phraseology. It is not intended to be an exhaustive treatise on the subjects taken in it. The authors have well fulfilled the task set before them, and the work cannot fail to be of great use in diffusing a sound knowledge of rectal and anal surgery.

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THE AMERICAN ARMAMENTARIUM CHIRURGICUM. New York. George Tiemann & Co., Imp. Svo., pp. 862.

This is primarily an instrument-maker's catalogue and price list, but it is put in a shape that it makes it practically a treatise on surgical instruments and operative surgery. Over 3400 engravings illustrate the instruments, and very many of them are accompanied by text descriptions of the purposes and manner of their use. Usually this text is a reprint from articles written by the original devisers of the instrument. In turning over the pages of this book we have been greatly interested. The future student of the history of surgical techniques will find this work a rich mine for his explorations. For every-day reference, the surgeon

who has not personal access to a large instrument-dealer's stores, will find this work a most valuable guide to aid him in the selection of instruments for any special work.

L. S. PILCHER.